

WAR ABOUT SCHOOLS
REACHES A CLIMAX

Morrow, in Reply to Parsons,
Says Criticism Is Inspired
by Gas Fight.

BASEMENT DOORS
NOT EXITS, HE SAYS

Commissioner Declares Mar-
the Charges Apply to Conditions
Due to Janitor Service.

As a result of the criticisms of the
conditions of the public school buildings
made by James L. Parsons in a morning
paper, the controversy between the Dis-
trict Commissioners and the president
of the school board has been brought
to a climax.

In a vigorous statement issued this
morning Commissioner Morrow, speak-
ing for the Building Department, de-
clared that the attacks made in the
morning paper were inspired by the fa-
vorable attitude assumed by the Dis-
trict Commissioners toward the reduc-
tion for the price of gas.

James F. Oyster, president of the
School Board, on the other hand, de-
clared today that Mr. Parsons' report
is a vindication of the stand he has
assumed in the fight.

Both sides agree that the only satis-
factory settlement of the question is to
be found in the complete investigation
of the conditions by a committee of citi-
zens.

Such action no doubt will be taken.
Commissioner Morrow, in his state-
ment, said that such a commission
should be appointed, and President
Oyster has gone on record as favoring
the same plan.

Superintendent A. T. Stewart, of the
schools, issued an order this morning
in which he directed all janitors and
principals to take special care to see
that all outside fastenings of doors were
left open when the buildings were oc-
cupied. Superintendent Stewart said
a number of violations of this rule had
been called to his attention during the
past few days.

Regrets Publicity.
"I regret that any one should en-
deavor to inflame the public mind by
such open headlines as appeared in a
morning paper, without endeavoring to
find out all the real facts," said Major
Morrow.

"In order, however, to assure the pub-
lic on this and kindred points, I shall
endeavor to secure a volunteer commit-
tee composed of architects and builders
of known standing to examine the
schools here and give us a report that
cannot be regarded in any way as taint-
ed with malice, nor favorably tinged
with favoritism.

"I do not desire to be construed as
criticizing Mr. Parsons, for whom I
have the highest regard and respect."

"It is much to be regretted that the
attacks on the District Commissioners
have been so unreliable. In the first place,
it should be stated that the Commis-
sioners have felt the need of an archi-
tect to supervise the preparation of
plans and specifications, and the making
of repairs for school buildings, and for
all other municipal buildings, and so
recommended to Congress, but with-
out avail.

Have Asked Money.
"They have also recommended in-
creased appropriations for making the
buildings fireproof, and these recom-
mendations, also, to a large extent,
have not been granted by the appro-
priating body. They also recommended,
last year, the appropriation of a con-
siderable sum for going over and over-
hauling the old school buildings in the
District in order to make them safer.
The appropriation for this purpose was
about one-fourth of the sum requested,
namely, \$50,000, and it was impos-
sible to do all the necessary work with
this amount, although much has been
done. A great many buildings have
been fireproofed around the heating ap-
paratus and in a number of buildings
fireproof stairs and windows have been
built, and in others fire-escapes erected.
All this to the extent of the \$50,000
fund.

To take up the Gage school, it should
first be stated that practically all of
the exits criticized are basement exits—
exits which are of use principally at re-

WEATHER REPORT.

During the last twenty-four hours
precipitation has occurred from the Pa-
cific coast over the middle and Northern
plateau and Rocky Mountain districts,
and the upper Missouri valley, and
showers have occurred in the West
and Gulf States; elsewhere the weather
has been fair.

During tonight and Sunday the weather
will continue fair with slight changes
in temperature in the middle Eastern
and Southeastern States.

The winds along the middle Atlantic
coast will be from the north, and will
freshen northwesterly; on the South At-
lantic coast, light to fresh northerly,
and on the East Gulf coast light East
to Southeast.

Steamers departing today for Euro-
pean ports will have light to fresh South-
westerly winds and fair weather to the
Grand Banks.

FORCAST FOR DISTRICT.
For the District of Columbia, Dela-
ware, Maryland, and Virginia, fair to-
night and Sunday; light variable winds,
mostly southerly.

TEMPERATURE.
9 a. m. 55
10 a. m. 56
11 a. m. 57
12 noon 58
2 p. m. 57

SUN TABLE.
Sun rises 6:31
Sun sets 5:29

TIDE TABLE.
High tide today 1:23 a. m.; 1:58 p. m.
Low tide today 8:15 a. m.; 8:37 p. m.
High tide tomorrow 2:22 a. m.; 2:57 p. m.
Low tide tomorrow 9:12 a. m.; 9:36 p. m.

OPPOSING OPINIONS
IN SCHOOL FIGHT

COMMISSIONER MORROW:
"I believe that the recent attacks
made on the Commissioners in a
morning paper are the direct result
of their attitude in favoring a re-
duction in the price of gas. Attacks
of this kind, however, will not in-
fluence me either on the gas ques-
tion or in other matters in which
I think I am right."

PRESIDENT OYSTER:
"I think we have been vindicated.
The public may have been weary
of the school board, but we have
shown now, more important
than ever, that the schools are safe for
children."

RUSSIAN ATTACHE
AGAIN UNDER FIRE

Residence of Former Naval
Commander Badly Dam-
aged—Has Close Call.

Between shot-swept decks of a Rus-
sian man-of-war and a Washington fire,
Commander A. K. Nebolsine, naval at-
tache of the Russian embassy, will take
chances with the battleship any day, for
he has been through both.

The fire experience came early this
morning, when he staggered blindly
through clouds of smoke and a roaring
fire at his home, 1325 M street north-
west. More by luck than anything else,
Commander Nebolsine escaped from his
home, which was damaged to the extent
of \$5,000.

D. Fortianko, an employee of the com-
mander, left a box of matches in the
butler's pantry last night when he
started to bed. But, it is supposed by
the Fire Department, on a touring ex-
pedition, discovered the matches, with
the usual result. Anyhow, Commander
Nebolsine was aroused early this morn-
ing by a roaring of flames that came
sweeping up the stairs and circled
around his bedroom.

Call "To Quarters."
It was the old call of "to quarters,"
and he likened the noise of the fire to
the smashing of a thirteen-inch shell
against the side of a battleship. The
flames had cut him off from the front
stairway, but he managed to reach a
rear exit and, clad in his night clothes,
he ran wildly down M street, and he
turned in an alarm.

Due to the quick work on the part of
the firemen, the house was saved from
total ruin. As it was, every room in
the house was under the exception of
the parlor.

The residence, which is an unusually
large one, is owned by Mrs. Celeste A.
Smith, of 1327 M street. The woodwork
was of mahogany and cherry. Nearly
every piece of furniture in the house
was ruined. Fire Marshal Nicholson
places the damage to the house at
\$3,000, and Commander Nebolsine esti-
mates the damage to furniture and
hangings at \$2,000. Many pieces of fur-
niture, which were put in storage dur-
ing the summer months, had not been
brought back to the house.

Damage to Furniture.
Commander Nebolsine's first experi-
ence with an American fire department,
was a striking example to the Russian
of Yankee enterprise, and he was high
in his praise of the work done by the
men.

"I know it was less than two minutes
that I was away from the house," he
said, "but by the time I got back, the
engines were there and the coke re-
gions nearby. I shall express my ap-
preciation of their work to Captain Sul-
livan, of No. 1 engine company, per-
sonally, and I shall express my ap-
preciation of the excellent system they have
in Washington."

VARI-COLORED MOON;
WORLD'S END FEARED

Residents of Coke Region Thrown
Into Alarm by Luminary's
Strange Hues.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Oct. 17.—A
green balze moon, which turned to a
deep red and then was partially
eclipsed in shadow, startled hundreds of
residents of this city and the coke re-
gions nearby, at 1:30 o'clock this morn-
ing. People climbed to the roofs of
their houses to watch the phenomenon
and a great crowd gathered in the street
that the world was coming to an end.
Many were frightened into hysterics,
women grasping their children to their
breasts and uttering wild shrieks. One
man telephoned to Pittsburgh to his re-
latives, bidding them good-by.

HERO'S GRANDSON DIES.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Oliver Hazard
Perry, a grandson of the hero of Lake
Erie, and a former member of the Jer-
sey City finance board, died from ap-
oplexy in his home, 582 Bergen avenue,
Jersey City. Mr. Perry was born in
Clarkson, N. Y., on April 6, 1890.

Rabies Fatal to Negro Boy
Bitten by a Dog in August

Suffering agony from hydrophobia,
Thomas Brown, a negro boy nine years
of age, died last night at his home, in
Alexandria, the best medical aid to be
obtained in both Alexandria and
Washington failing to check the dis-
ease.

The boy was bitten on August 1.
Some time afterward the dog bit an-
other canine, and since then both dogs
died.

The wound was slight and soon
healed up. No attention was paid to it.
On Tuesday the boy was taken vio-
lently ill and was put in bed. A physi-
cian was called. He immediately com-
municated with officers at the Bureau
of Animal Industry in the Department
of Agriculture, by whom he was re-

STRAUS PASSES LIE
DIRECT TO SHELDON

G. O. P. Treasurer's Denial
of Wall Street "Shake-
down" Brings Reply.

DEMOCRAT INSISTS
TRUTH IS NOT TOLD

Says Difference in 1904 Re-
denial Is That President
Know He Was Wrong.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Nathan Straus,
multi-millionaire, philanthropist, mer-
chant prince, and brother of Oscar S.
Straus, Secretary of Commerce and La-
bor, today passed the lie direct to
George R. Sheldon, treasurer of the Re-
publican national committee, and said
he was ready to prove it.
Yesterday Mr. Straus made the charge
that Wall Street brokers have been as-
sessed \$500 each for the Republican na-
tional committee, and under pressure
have been paying.
Last night Treasurer Sheldon denied this.

Today Mr. Straus came to bat again
this wise.
"You will recall that, in 1904, Judge
Parker charged that corporations had
raised a great fund to elect Mr. Roose-
velt. Mr. Roosevelt denied it. I be-
lieve Mr. Roosevelt, when he made that
denial, believed he was telling the truth.
There is this difference between the
President's denial at that time and Mr.
Sheldon's denial now, that Mr. Roose-
velt believed he was telling what was
true, while Mr. Sheldon knows he is
lying."

Dictates Statement.

Mr. Straus dictated his statement with
the greatest deliberation in the presence
of a score of newspaper men and in the
presence of Vice Chairman Hudspeth
and Vice Presidential Candidate Kern,
who gasped for breath and then nodded
emphatic approval.

Mr. Straus went on: "You are at
liberty to quote me as saying this, and
you may add that if Mr. Sheldon cares
to press the matter further, I stand
ready to appear before any committee
of disinterested citizens whose names
will command credence, and present my
proof. If Mr. Sheldon will present his
proof that my statement is not true, let
him show what money was received,
and whence it has come."

Mr. Straus, in a carefully prepared
statement today, explained the basis of
his charges. He said business men had
been called upon, under such stress of
influence as made it impossible for them
to refuse, to contribute \$500 each to the
Republican fund. His first direct infor-
mation was from the junior partner of
one of the biggest firms in the street,
whose political affiliations are generally
Democratic. This junior partner told Mr.
Straus that the head of the firm had
been called on for \$500, and had paid,
and the other members were doing the
same. "Our sympathies are with you,
but the other fellows have got the
money, was the comment of the broker."

Would Give Proof.

Mr. Straus declares he has substan-
tially the same information from other
brokers and that he will present his in-
formation and proof, if proper oppor-
tunity is given, to secure the corrobor-
ation which he declares the books of
Treasurer Sheldon would contain.

Treasurer Sheldon was forthwith told
of the pointed charge by Mr. Straus.
"I don't think he would come here
and say that to me in person," observed
Mr. Sheldon, flushing. "But I shall
have no controversy with Straus. It is
too ridiculous to receive any considera-
tion. How could anybody assess Wall
Street? I'd like to know that."

"So would Treasurer Ridder of the
other committee," observed one of the
interviewers. Everybody laughed.

Chairman Hitchcock entirely approved
Mr. Sheldon's attitude. The chairman was
asked: "When your committee, within
twenty days after election, makes pub-
lic its collection list, will it show any-
thing in justification of Mr. Straus' charge?"

"It will be a refutation of any such
charge, and a complete one," he said.
"Of course, our people have sent out
letters asking contributions; sent them
by thousands; sent them to business
men on every street anywhere, without
reference to any traditions about any
particular street. I suppose Wall Street
got some of them. That is all there is
to it."

Both Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Hitchcock
laughed at the idea of a tribunal to
decide whether Mr. Sheldon did or
didn't lie.

"I certainly wouldn't waste time in a
controversy of this kind," said Mr.
Hitchcock, while the treasurer nodded
assent.

DR. BULL BETTER.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Dr. William T.
Bull, the eminent surgeon, who is ill
at his home here, is declared by his
physicians to be better today than he
has been for a week. His condition,
however, is still critical.

The case also proves, it is claimed,
that once the disease manifests itself
in the system, no power known to the
medical world can stay the hand of
death. The Pasteur treatment serving
only as a preventive and having no
power over the disease after the symp-
toms begin to show.

He said in part:
"Complaint is often made by the people
of North Carolina that their men do
not take their part in the affairs of the
Government. They do not. North Caro-
lina has able men, but as long as you
are going to vote the Democratic ticket,
and the Republican is in power, I don't
see how these gentlemen who do the
voting can expect to share in the power."

"In other words, let them vote as they
think, and then we will wipe out the se-
ditional lines. It is a great pleasure to
me to come here, because I think I am
the first Republican candidate for Presi-
dent that ever came into North Caro-
lina on a campaign for the Presidency,
and I am here for the purpose of testifi-
ing to the South my interest in that sec-
tion, my earnest desire to unite it with
the North and my hope that the Repub-
lican party will be built up in North
Carolina."

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return
Saturdays and Sundays via Pennsylv-
ania Railroad. Tickets good returning
until Sunday night. All regular trains
except the "Congressional Limited."

CHILDREN WATCHING BEN GREET PERFORMANCE



MRS. ROOSEVELT,
Patrons of the Performances.

TAR HEELS URGED
TO SUPPORT G. O. P.

Taft Tells North Carolinians
How They May Make In-
fluence Felt.

By JAMES HAY, Jr.

GREENSBORO, N. C., Oct. 17.—Will-
iam H. Taft came into Greensboro at
11:15 o'clock this morning, and was
driven at once to the Hippodrome,
where he addressed a crowd of 20,000
people, half of them Democrats.

His text was the same today as yester-
day, and he pleased his hearers as he
did yesterday. He argued that it is
time for Southerners to shake off their
subservience to the Democratic party,
and to recognize that their interests are
bound up in the policies of Republi-
canism.

The enthusiasm with which he was
received equalled any demonstration he
got in the West. The streets were
thronged with people who made his ar-
rival and departure the signal for deafen-
ing cheers. His speech was frequently
interrupted by cries of "You're the
man for us," and "We want you, Big
Will."

His first speech in the North Carolina
soil was at a little place called States-
ville, where he spoke to a large crowd
at 8 o'clock. The next stop was Salla-
burg. There he left the train, and was
driven to the opera house, which was
packed to the doors.

Mr. Taft Speaks.

He said in part:
"Complaint is often made by the people
of North Carolina that their men do
not take their part in the affairs of the
Government. They do not. North Caro-
lina has able men, but as long as you
are going to vote the Democratic ticket,
and the Republican is in power, I don't
see how these gentlemen who do the
voting can expect to share in the power."

"In other words, let them vote as they
think, and then we will wipe out the se-
ditional lines. It is a great pleasure to
me to come here, because I think I am
the first Republican candidate for Presi-
dent that ever came into North Caro-
lina on a campaign for the Presidency,
and I am here for the purpose of testifi-
ing to the South my interest in that sec-
tion, my earnest desire to unite it with
the North and my hope that the Repub-
lican party will be built up in North
Carolina."

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return
Saturdays and Sundays via Pennsylv-
ania Railroad. Tickets good returning
until Sunday night. All regular trains
except the "Congressional Limited."

PRESIDENT SMILES
ON GREET CROWDS

Makes Short Address at
Performance in the
Morning.

TELLS SCHOOL TOTS
THEY ARE CHARMING

Congratulates Fairlike Cast of
Wonder Players and Lauds
Playgrounds Movement.

Program of Plays
At White House

Pandora and the Mysterious Box.

CHARACTERS.

Quicksilver.....Eric Blind
Theod. King Midas.....George Vivian
Shepherd.....Stanley Drewitt
Hate.....J. Sayre Crawley
Greed.....Stanley Drewitt
Aetides.....Lucia Cole
Hope.....Lucia Cole
Pandora.....Violet Vivian
Shepherds, Shepherdesses and Vil-
lagers.

Scene—A glade near Mount Olympus.

King Midas, the Golden Touch.

CHARACTERS:

Quicksilver.....Eric Blind
King Midas.....Ben Greet
King of Mesaba.....Stanley Drewitt
Thebes.....Henry Willis
A Fruit Seller.....John Northants
Slaves.....P. Seymour, Geo. Vivian
Helen.....Lucia Cole
Leda.....Agnes Elliott Scott
Zoe.....Imogen Taylor
Princess Marggold.....Ruth Vivian
Men, women, captives, soldiers, at-
endants.

Scene—The King's Palace near
Mount Olympus.

Soldiers—Cadets of Companies E and
G, H. S. C.
The Children—Ella Doune, Alice
Woodsum, Emma Liversay, Ida
Brinder, Ruth Fletcher, Leona
Brown, Amy Marsh, Ruth Kuh-
ner, Cora Harwin, Ella Cole,
Rena Hinwood, Sarah Hymon,
Mary Grace, Mary Jordan, Hattie
Fletcher, Fannie Colvin, Melvin
Soper, James Boyd, George Boyd,
Earl Woodfule, Byron Hoger.

"You are a pretty good looking spec-
tacle yourselves."

President Roosevelt slipped out of
the executive office long enough this
morning to come over and greet the
thousands attending the second-day
presentation of two of Hawthorne's
"wonder tales" by the Ben Greet Wood-
lawn Players, and after making the
heart of every actor glad with a cheery
word and a handshake, yielded to the
applauding demands of the hundreds of
school children present and made a
short address, throwing the bouquet
quoted above as he left the improvised
stage.

A perfect setting was that presented
on the White House grounds when the
outdoor performances opened at 10
o'clock this morning. Nature had pro-
vided her very best; the day was ideal,
the crowds happy in anticipation of
the unique treat, and the actors them-
selves seemingly imbued with the very
appropriateness of it all.

As upon yesterday, when society
turned out in force, "Pandora and the
Mischief Box" and "Midas and the Gold-
en Touch" were presented to the un-
sated appetites of school children, for
parents, teachers, members of the
Board of Education, and an audience
as cosmopolitan as it was representative.

During the ten-minute intermission be-
tween the two plays, the Marine Band
began a medley of patriotic airs herald-
ing the approach of the President, who
had signified his intention of leaving
trains of state for a few moments and
becoming part of the festive out-door
scene.

President Roosevelt first stopped at
the back of the natural stage, where he
shook hands with the various actors,
still in costume. A few moments later
he emerged from behind the clump of
trees, and with brisk strides and his
customary smile, advanced to the front
of the small stage and facing the cheer-
ing school children. He said:

Word for Playgrounds.

"I wish to say a word of greeting to
tell you how welcome you are here and
how glad we are to see you on the
White House grounds, not only the
grown-ups, but more especially the chil-
dren. On your behalf as well as my
own I want to express our sense of obli-
gation to Mr. Greet and his company
for coming here today and in such gen-
erous style giving half to the work of
the playgrounds association.

"We owe to them not only our enter-
tainment of yesterday afternoon and
this morning, and that profit that must
come from a play done in this manner,
but we owe to them a substantial ad-
vancement in the movement for secur-
ing better playground facilities for the
children of Washington.

"On your behalf as well as mine,
therefore, and on behalf of the city of
Washington, I want to express in this
fashion my sense of obligation to Mr.
Greet and those associated with him.
Good-by, and good luck to all of you.

"You are a pretty good-looking spec-
tacle yourselves."

Thousands Are Awed.

There could hardly be imagined a more
picturesque and beautiful scene than
that that feasted upon by thousands of eyes
at the historic White House grounds
this morning.

In and out of the autumn-tinted fol-
lage came the elfish little actors and ac-
tresses, a score of Washington boys and
girls having been added to the noted
Ben Greet cast. The rays of an in-
(Continued on Fourth Page.)

Organization Is Completed
By Free Lance Cab Drivers

There's not much joy in being a
free-lance cab driver in Washington
these days according to 200 of the
profession, who are busily discussing
today the formation of "The Owners
and Drivers of Public Vehicles' Pro-
tective Association."

Taxicabs and hotel cab drivers be-
long to one trust, they say, and they
have reduced the earning powers of
the free-lance so much that horses as
well as drivers miss meals now and
then, the independent drivers claim.

President Johnson, of the associa-
tion, which was born last night, de-
clares that test cases will be brought
in the courts to prove that the taxi-
cabs and hotel drivers are violating
the law every day by soliciting trade.
It is pointed out by President Johnson
that it is a violation of the law for
the taxicabs and hotel cab drivers to
solicit other than hotel trade, and he
wants the courts to back up his opin-
ion.